781-[illegible] 650 I 29.21:F 77/2/2 /981

ORIGINAL

Draft Development Concept Plan
August 1981

COMPLETED
52

126

FORT LARAMIE
National Historic Site
Goshen County, Wyoming

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DRAFT
DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN

FORT LARAMIE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
WYOMING

Prepared by

Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service

APPROVED:

Date

Regional Director
Rocky Mountain Region

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

I. SUMMARY 1

II. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES 2

III. EXISTING CONDITIONS 4

IV. PROPOSED ACTION 6

- A. Visitor/Orientation and Park Administration Structure 10
- B. Maintenance Facilities 19
- C. Fort Area 21
- D. Pedestrian Bridge 22
- E. Picnic Area 23
- F. Archeological Historic Resources 23
- G. Self Guiding Trails and Wayside Exhibits 29

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND MITIGATION 29

- A. Visitor Contact Facilities 29
- B. Headquarters and Administration Facilities 30
- C. Maintenance Facilities 30
- D. Pedestrian Bridge Location 30
- E. Picnic Area Location 32
- F. Archeological and Historic Resources 32
- G. Laramie River Flood Basin 33

APPENDIX A 34

I. Development Cost Estimates 34

II. Estimated Additional Staffing 33

III. Analysis of Additional Personnel Requirements 35

IV. Analysis of Additional Equipment Requirements 35

V. Time Frames 35

VI. Cost Effectiveness 35

- A. Management Objectives 35
- B. Quantitative and Qualitative Projection of Operational Effectiveness 36
- C. Additional Costs that will Occur as a Result of the Proposal 36

APPENDIX B, Consultation and Coordination with Others 37

APPENDIX C, Bibliography 38

APPENDIX D, Planning Team Members 39

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	Page
Photograph A - Existing Parking Lot Impact	3
Photograph B - Historic Site Use	5
Graph - Visitation Trends	7
Map - Existing Conditions Parkwide	8
Map - Existing Conditions Fort Area	9
Photograph C - Parking Lot Impact	11
Photograph D - Historic Setting	12
Photograph E - Historic Structure 75	13
Photograph F - Calvary Barracks, Fort Area	16
Photograph G - Existing Topography	18
Map - Development Concept Plan Parkwide	24
Map - Development Concept Plan Fort Area	25
Confluence Area - Site Concept Detail	26
Picnic Area - Site Concept Detail	27
Map - Mass Planting Plan	28
Photograph H - Laramie River Bed	31

1. SUMMARY

The development concept plan presents a long range guideline for park development. It is based on the park's master plan dated April 1965. The development concept plan is a refinement to the master plan providing a more detailed planning guideline for development. The development concept plan updates the following items in the master plan:

-The park was enlarged from 571 acres to 836.40 acres by authority contained in Public Law 95-625, November 10, 1978.

-The proposed park residential area has been deleted from further consideration.

-The picnic area has been proposed at a new location.

Major items addressed in the development concept plan are visitor orientation, public access, and reduction of nonhistoric activities in the historic fort area. Access is directed to provide a sequence of arrival parallel to the historic route of the Oregon and Mormon Trails. The visitor contact facility, parking, entrance road, picnicking, points of interest, and maintenance activities will be relocated to the south side of the Laramie River to preserve the integrity of the fort area, thus helping to recreate the historic fort setting and provide visitors with a more complete experience and understanding of the 1800's period lifestyle and activities in a nondistracting atmosphere while preserving the resource for future generations.

The plan addresses a sensitive relationship between the historic site and the proposed visitor contact and administration building. An underground building, constructed above the flood plain of the Laramie River, will visually blend into the landscape when viewed from the fort grounds. The building will be oriented to provide maximum potential for solar heat and cooling and will have potential for wind generated power.

Proposed development is noncontroversial and complements the National Park Service policy and park management objectives at Fort Laramie National Historic Site. Local public workshops contributed significantly toward the selection of alternatives resulting in the preparation of the development concept plan.

Previous efforts were undertaken to develop a new entrance road. The park boundary was expanded to provide sufficient land for the new entrance road and funding was programmed for road construction. Several years ago, park management decided to forego road construction until this development concept plan was approved for all facilities including the new visitor contact and administrative complex. The master plan and development concept plan unifies proposed facilities and will relocate noncompatible activities away from the fort area.

II. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The following management objectives relate directly to the proposed action in the development concept plan. These management objectives were approved in the statement for management, dated April 9, 1981.

"To reestablish to the fullest extent possible the integrity of the historic scene on the north side of the Laramie River, by removing 20th century intrusion from the area (see Photograph A)." Steps to be taken include: curtail use of motorized vehicles in the fort area, and relocate administrative office, visitor contact, and maintenance buildings to the south side of the Laramie River.

"To protect and preserve the historic integrity of the buildings, structures, and ruins within the area while assuring their availability for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public to perpetuity."

"To reestablish vegetative resources * * * to the condition that prevailed during the army days 1849-1890 and manage these resources in a manner to assure their retention to that period."

"To assist and work with county officials in preserving the historical appearance of the landscape surrounding the historic site."

"To provide the highest quality of professional interpretation of the fort's history and resources, using various interpretive techniques with special emphasis on living history demonstrations, based on the following interpretive themes:

a. Fort Laramie as the base for army activities in the northern plains frontier, as agent of the U.S. Government in westward expansion, 1849-1890.

b. Fort Laramie and the fur trade, 1812-1849."

"To develop and present special activities and events that will increase and deepen the visitor's understanding of the meaning of Fort Laramie and the life that existed at this post during the historic period."

"To cooperate in the planning and presentation of interpretive activities and programs with the Agencies that manage the numerous Oregon Trail sites that are found along that historic trail." Other trails will be incorporated into the Fort Laramie interpretive programs as studies and as emphasis arise.

"To actively work with school officials in promoting the use of the fort by school groups for studying western American history and environmental education."

PHOTOGRAPH A

Historic Structure 4 in foreground, Historic Structure 2 in the middle ground, and the parade ground to the right are visually impacted by the existing parking area.

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

III. EXISTING CONDITIONS

Fort Laramie National Historic Site is located on the Laramie River near its confluence with the North Platte River in southeastern Wyoming.

The historic scene at Fort Laramie generally remains much as it appeared during the historic period. From horizon to horizon, the historic structures, grasslands, river, and bluffs appear much as they did in military days. While the number of structures is greatly reduced from the army period, the mood of military post may easily be recaptured today. More difficult to capture is the time of the fur traders and the dramatic westward movement of the emigrant trains. The predominance of the military post has already been noted.

The fort is situated on the flood plain of the Laramie River. Bluffs approximately ½-mile to the north and south form sides of the river valley. Grasslands surround the entire area and dominate vistas. Most historic structures and ruins are situated on the first stream terrace varying from 10 to 16 feet above the present flood plain of the Laramie River. Several historical structures were placed on the upper margin of the flood plain. A number of historic structure sites lie on the present flood plain, but upstream river control will largely eliminate flood danger.

Cultural resources at Fort Laramie can be divided into four broad categories: 1) those remnants of prehistoric aboriginal occupation known to exist in the immediate Platte and Laramie River valleys; 2) the material remains and contextual information associated with premilitary ownership, 1834-49; 3) the archival, contextual, and material remains of the military years, 1849-90; and 4) the historic data and physical remains of the post-military period, 1890-1938. Many of the cultural resources of the national historic site remain historical archeological in nature.

Management objectives direct that the same general appearance as existed during the army period should be maintained. The one exception is the increased, but natural tree growth along the river course. This will be allowed to take its natural course, but with management carrying out any necessary and sensitive vista clearing.

Routine management of the historic scene will be directed toward maintaining the present situation wherein there are no, or few, nonhistoric intrusions. An obvious exception will be the visitor contact and administrative facilities planned for the south side of the Laramie River to include maintenance facilities, a visitor contact, and a parking area. These will be planned and managed to minimize their impact on the general historic scene.

PHOTOGRAPH B

Historic structures and parade ground in the background.

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

Management of the historic scene consists of elimination of nonhistoric intrusions, prevention of such intrusions in the future, and continued maintenance of the fort grounds and the historic structures toward their designated period (see Photographs B and C).

The present maintenance area, parking lot, and fire plugs constitute the most obvious intrusions in the historic setting. Their removal or mitigation will largely eliminate these intrusions. However, one of the modern buildings in the present maintenance area houses the water well and the irrigation well head and pumps. Its removal would require a new water system for the park. Such a removal cannot be undertaken until adequate funds for a complete new water system are available and until another adequate source of water is found. Three test wells dug on the south side of the river failed to find an adequate water source.

The location of existing sewage disposal for the proposed visitor contact and administration complex and proposed maintenance area, and existing sewer and water lines are depicted in Figures 1 and 2. The location of the leach field and associated septic systems are designed within Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Guidelines as specified in Public Health Service Publication Number 526, Revised 1967, and comply with point source pollution standards as located. Location of needed structures within close proximity to existing lines minimizes further environmental disruptions.

Solid wastes are hauled out of the park to an approved landfill for disposal.

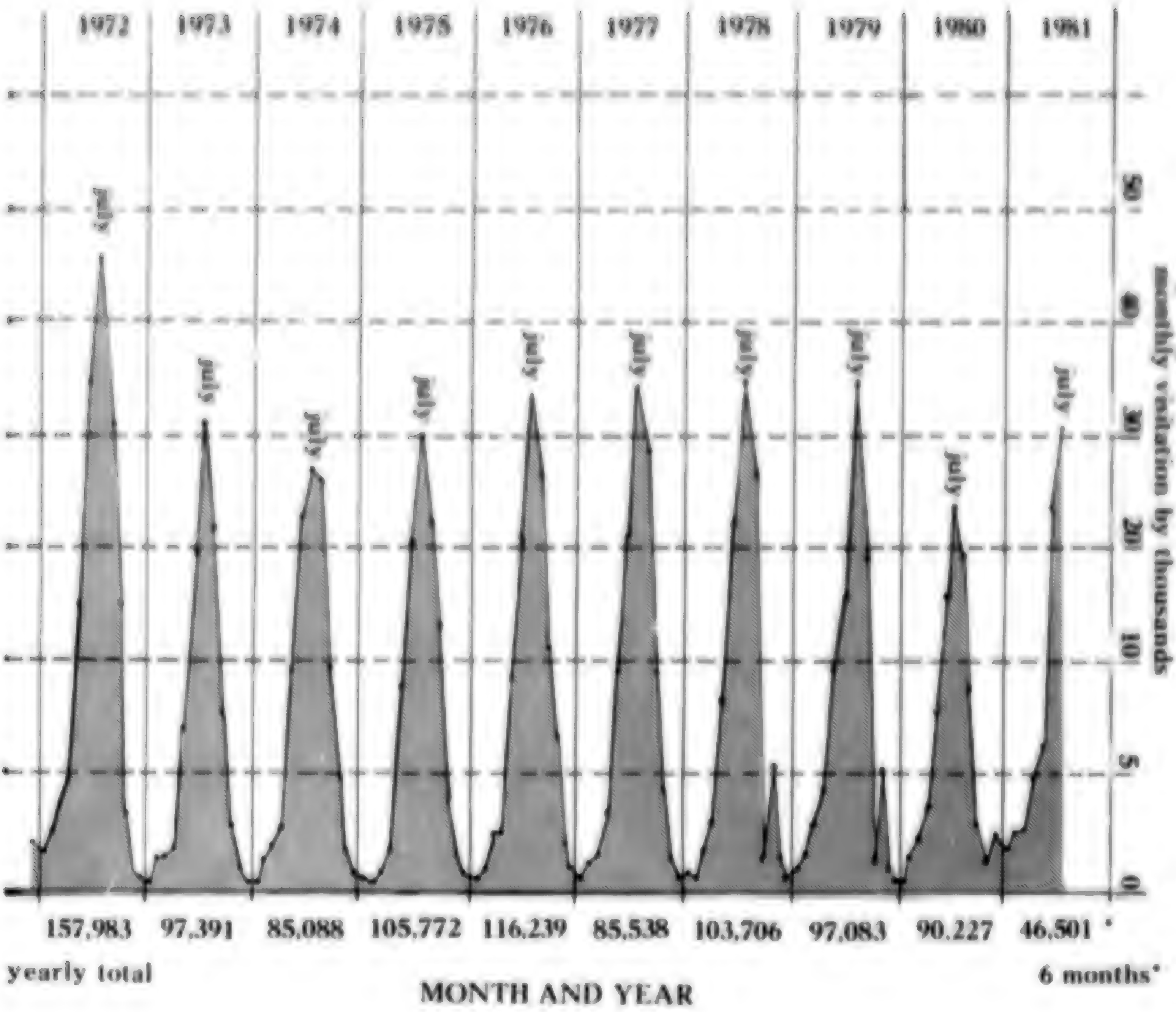
Visitation is seasonal and heavier on weekends than during weekdays. Public visitation in descending order of volume has been as follows: highest visitation occurs on the patriotic holidays of Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day; next highest visitation occurs on summer weekends; next summer weekdays; next winter off-season weekends; and lowest visitation occurs on winter off-season weekdays (see Visitation Trends Graph).

An analysis of annual visitation is 88 percent May through September, or 12 percent October through April, 75 percent June through August, or 25 percent September through May.

There is reason to believe that the visitor use pattern will continue to increase in the future.

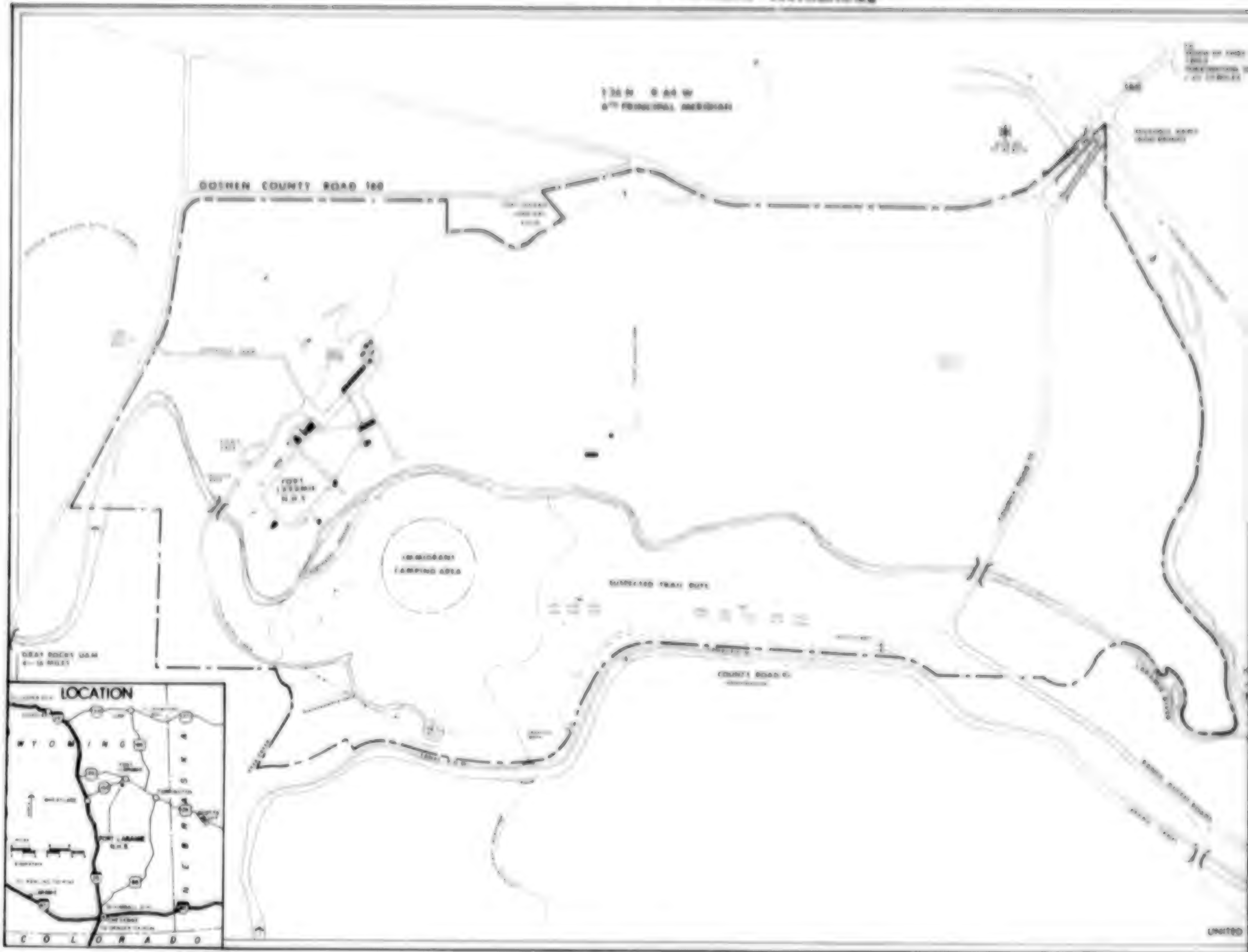
IV. PROPOSED ACTION

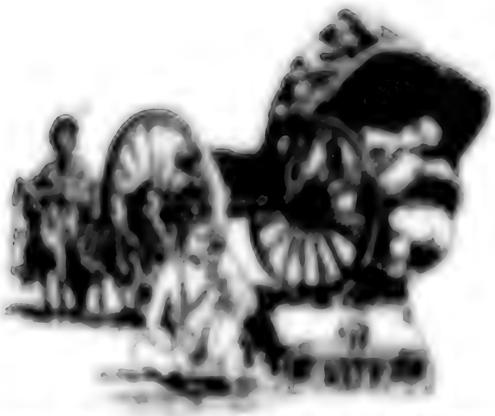
(See Figures 1 and 2, Existing Conditions, and Figures 4 and 5, Development Concept Plan).



VISITATION TRENDS

FORT LARAMIE N.H.S.


T 26 N R 64 W
6TH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN
GOSHEN COUNTY ROAD 160
FORT LARAMIE N.H.S.
IMMIGRANT CAMPING AREA
SUSPECTED TRAIL RUTS
COUNTY ROAD
GRAY ROCKS DAM
LOCATION
W Y O M I N G
N E B R A S K A
C O L O R A D O
FORT LARAMIE N.H.S.
UNITED



FORT LARAMIE

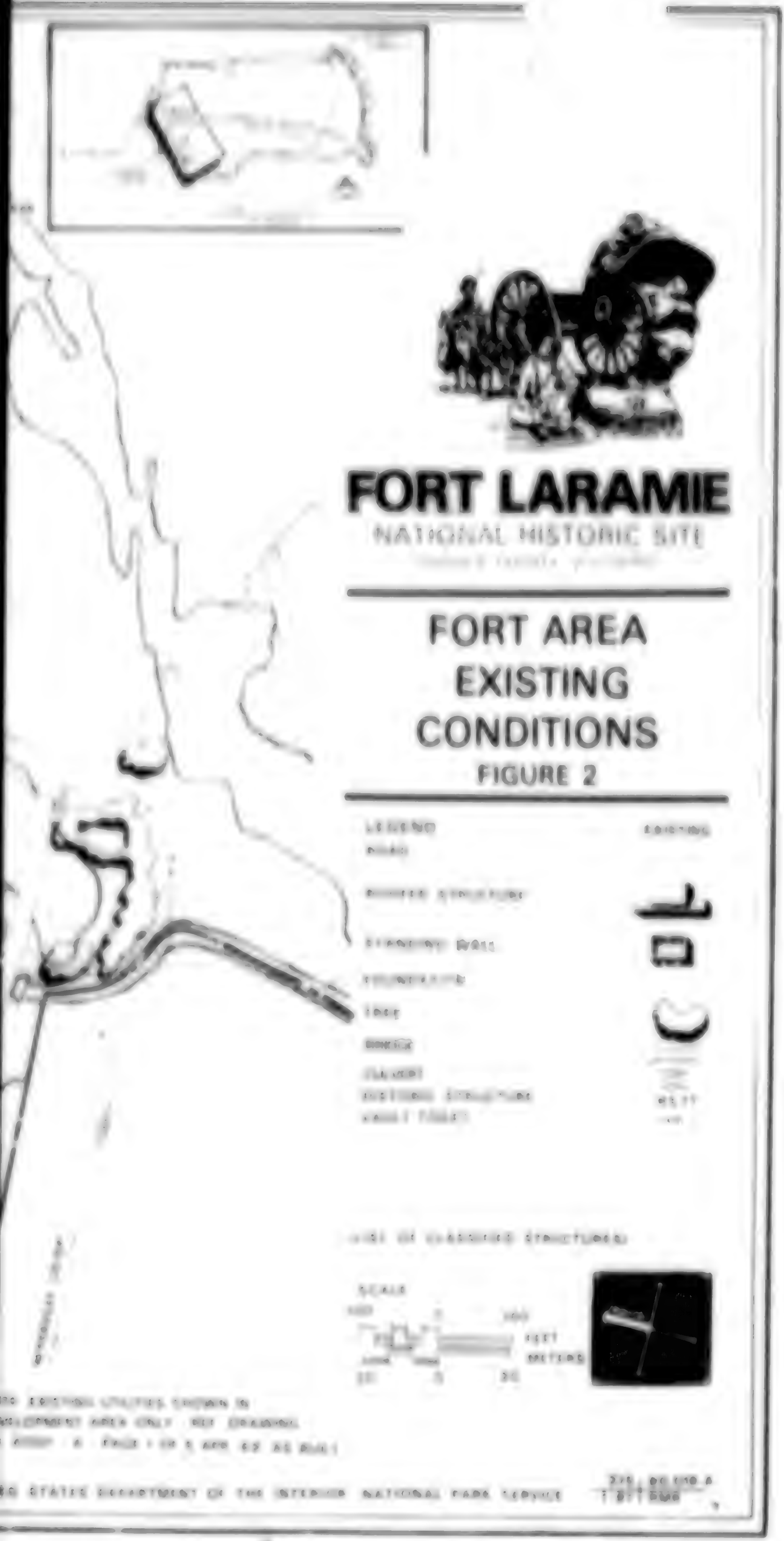
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
GOSHEN COUNTY, WYOMING

EXISTING CONDITIONS PARK WIDE

FIGURE 1

[illegible]

STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



FORT LARAMIE
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

FORT AREA EXISTING CONDITIONS
FIGURE 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

2A

Alternatives selected from the environmental assessment dated February 1978, constitute the proposed action. These selections were based on comments received from the general public, employees at Fort Laramie National Historic Site, a professional interdisciplinary park planning team, and National Park Service management officials, after a careful evaluation of all review comments received. Comments were received verbally in public workshops and by written statements from concerned citizens and employees.

Two subjects, fire truck storage and picnic area, were changed from alternatives discussed in the environmental assessment as a result of input received during the public review period.

Boundary adjustments previously addressed in the environmental assessment of February 1978, have since been added to Fort Laramie National Historic Site by Public Law 95-625 dated November 10, 1978.

The development concept plan proposes the following:

A. Visitor Orientation and Park Administration Structure

Construct visitor contact and administration facilities on the south side of the Laramie River.

The selection carries a recommendation that the design of the buildings and site be handled with great sensitivity as to complement rather than detract from the visual qualities of the complex as seen from the parade grounds of the fort (see Photographs D and E).

The new visitor orientation facility will provide an interpretation program focused on the key role of Fort Laramie on western expansion through the 1850's, visitor information services, and a historic literature and memorabilia sales outlet.

The visitor orientation siting provides a unique feature because all visitors will pass through its doors both going to and returning from the fort grounds. This feature is desirable as it provides the ultimate opportunity to orient visitors by providing a historical background before they visit the fort grounds and another opportunity to make contact with National Park Service personnel to ask questions after returning from the fort. Visitor orientation prior to entering the fort grounds will provide a greater knowledge of the historical background of the fort and a deeper appreciation and meaning to the experience they receive on the fort grounds.

Preliminary space requirements addressed in this planning document are based on the following numbers of visitors and estimated time they will spend in the visitor orientation building:

PHOTOGRAPH C

View southeast across the parade ground from the ruins of Historic Structure 13 (hospital)

PHOTOGRAPH D

View southeast from second floor veranda of Historic Structure 1 (Old Bedlam) toward Historic Structure 75.

The existing vegetation behind Historic Structure 75 will screen view of the proposed location of the visitor orientation and administration building and parking from the parade ground area (foreground).

PHOTOGRAPH E

Interior of stabilized walls of Historic Structure 75. Comments were received concerning the potential adaptive use of Historic Structure 75 as the administration and visitor contact facility. These remains are structurally unsound and the approved management objectives specify relocation of those activities away from the historic scene. Strong local opinion was voiced to retain this structure in its present condition as a demonstration of the historic period construction methods.

A 6 year average of visitors to Fort Laramie National Historic Site during the month of July is 31,515 people or 1,017 visitors per day. The following planning figures are based on 1,000 people per day.

This translates into an average of 125 visitors per hour during an 8-hour day or 250 visitors per hour passing through the visitor orientation building going to and from the fort grounds.

An estimated stay in the visitor orientation structure is 15 to 45 minutes for visitors arriving and 0 to 10 minutes for visitors leaving to produce an estimated figure of 74 visitors in the structure at one time. These time figures are probably conservative.

The above averages present an oversimplification of visitor use and does not take into account peak hours per day, bus tours, and peak day use which could easily fluctuate from 10 percent to 300+ percent or from 7 visitors to 225+ visitors within the building at one time. Preliminary space requirements that follow are subject to change later in the facility design stage of planning.

1. Visitor Orientation Structure

The following is a breakdown of space requirements for visitor use facilities by function in the visitor orientation structure:

a. Information Desk and Sales, 300 sq. ft - This space will be utilized by 2 to 3 employees providing visitor information and display space for books along with other sales items. There is a great interest at Fort Laramie National Historic Site for sales items as evidenced by the $60,000 sales during 1980. This amount can be expected to increase greatly since only one-third of the visitors at Fort Laramie National Historic Site currently stop at the information desk as compared to the 200 percent that will pass by the desk in the future.

b. Introduction Area, 600 sq. ft. - General information on Fort Laramie National Historic Site and surrounding areas of interest will be presented through the use of displays such as panels, amps, and other visuals. This space will also serve as a lobby and gathering place and could, by design, integrate with the information space described above.

c. Museum, 1,100 sq. ft - Displays will include some of the existing 15,000 artifacts presently stored at Fort Laramie National Historic Site. The present temporary museum is a high public interest display area, even though it is inadequate in size and museum design.

d. Auditorium, 900 sq. ft., (60 persons) - An audiovisual presentation will provide a major visitor interpretive orientation to set the stage to receive the living history interpretations on the fort grounds. The audiovisual program will provide a background for and a transition into the military years at Fort Laramie without conflicting with or repeating the living history interpretation on the fort grounds. The opportunity exists to present the audiovisual presentation to all park visitors as they pass through the visitor orientation building on their way to the fort grounds.

e. Public Restrooms, 300 sq. ft. (6 stalls on back sites) - This space is needed to accommodate park visitors at their first major stop in the park. The facilities will be designed to handle visitor need during the projected heavy use periods.

f. Circulation, Mechanical, Janitorial, and Storage, 640 sq. ft. - This figure was derived by adding 20 percent to the above 3,200 sq. ft. and is a typical space factor used for public buildings. This estimated space may be low for the anticipated solar heating and cooling for this building.

A recap of the total square footage summary for the visitor orientation portion of this building is as follows:

Information Desk and Sales	300 sq. ft.
Introduction Area	600 sq. ft.
Museum	1,100 sq. ft.
Auditorium	900 sq. ft.
Public Restrooms	300 sq. ft.
Circulation, Mechanical, Storage, and Janitorial	640 sq. ft.
TOTAL	3,840 sq. ft.

2. Park Administration Structure

The following is a breakdown of the space requirements for the administration structure:

a. Superintendent's Office, 200 sq. ft.

b. Security Center, 250 sq. ft. - Office space for guard force personnel (five permanent and one seasonal), security equipment storage, and fire and intrusion alarm system.

c. Administration, 500 sq. ft - Office space for park administrative personnel (2 permanent and 1 seasonal), files, and duplication space.

d. Interpretation, 450 sq. ft. - Office space for three permanent interpreters.

e. Library and Research, 400 sq. ft. - The present library contains over 5,000 volumes, some rare and located in locked storage, and library research work space.

f. Multi-use Room, 300 sq. ft. - This room will be used for training, employee meetings, lunch, and coffee break area, and is to contain a small kitchen.

g. Employee Restrooms, 150 sq. ft. - To contain toilet, shower, and locker facilities for permanent employees and seasonal employees on duty in the administration and visitor information building. Lockers and showers are for changing to and from period living history clothing.

PHOTOGRAPH F

Laundress quarters (foreground) portion of the living history interpretive program with Historic Structure 5 (Cavalry Barracks) (middle ground) and Historic Structure 13 (hospital) (background).

h. Storage, 250 sq. ft. - Space for administration and historical association storage.

i. Historical Association, Business Manager's Office, 100 sq. ft.

j. Circulation, Mechanical, and Janitorial, 260 sq. ft. - This space represents 10 percent or an additional 260 sq. ft. to the above 2,600 sq. ft. and is a modest space factor in an administrative building of this type. The space may be small for the anticipated solar and cooling system in the building.

A recap of the total space requirements for the administrative portions of the building is as follows:

Superintendent's Office	200 sq. ft.
Security Center	250 sq. ft.
Administration	500 sq. ft.
Interpretation	450 sq. ft.
Library and Research Area	400 sq. ft.
Multi-Use Room	300 sq. ft.
Employees Restrooms	150 sq. ft.
Storage	250 sq. ft.
Historical Association, Business Menager's Office	100 sq. ft.
Circulation, Mechanical, and Janitorial Space	260 sq. ft.
TOTAL	2,860 sq. ft.

Total estimated space requirements for the entire structures is:

Visitor Orientation	3,840 sq. ft.
Park Administration	2,860 sq. ft.
TOTAL	6,700 sq. ft.

Incorporating the visitor contact and administrative facilities into one complex will improve park operations. Combining these two functions will reduce impact of the site, improve operating efficiency by avoiding duplication of personnel during low visitation periods, provide energy savings by minimizing the amount of exterior wall surface, and provide the opportunity to incorporate solar heating and cooling into one building.

The site lends itself to an earth covered building due to site conditions and is desirable since an above ground structure would detract from the historic scene of the fort area.

An earth berm over the building will support native grasses to visually blend the mound into the natural earth forms in the background as viewed from the fort grounds. Existing trees and shrubs along the river's edge will minimize visual effects of the earth mound from the

PHOTOGRAPH G

Rolling hills, will visually blend with the earth berm screening concept for the visitor orientation and administration facility.

View looking south from the proposed facility location.

parade ground. An underground building properly insulated will greatly reduce energy requirements for heating and cooling. Solar collectors on the south side of the building (out of view from the fort area), combined with overhead sky lights will further reduce energy needs. An opportunity exists to further reduce commercial energy requirements by utilization of a wind generator or a photovoltaic electrical system to serve the new building.

The mound covering the building and vegetation screening will also help to eliminate views of the parking area and entrance road from the historic fort area.

B. Maintenance Facilities

Major modification to the alternatives previously addressed in the assessment of alternatives form the basis for the selection of this portion of the plan. These modifications include the decision to:

-Relocate the fire truck storage to the new maintenance area on the south side of the Laramie River.

-Retain the existing water pumps and pumphouse on the north side of the river, and make minor exterior architectual changes to the pumphouse. These exterior changes are intended to improve the appearance of the building to make the pumphouse visually compatible with the historic scene.

-Remove the other four maintenance buildings from the fort grounds and restore the site.

Locating the fire truck in the new maintenance area not only eliminates the need for that storage function on the fort site, but also complements the fort's fire plan. The fort's structural fire plan includes using fire hoses located in fire boxes near the historic buildings as the first line of attack on structural or grass fires. The hoses are to be operated by seasonal and/or permanent employees on the fort grounds with the fire trucks as backup. A fire truck in the new maintenance area will be located a short distance from the new administration building and permanent employees will operate the truck.

The maintenance and artifact storage buildings will be located in the maintenance area. The building or buildings should be built at the same time to assure design compatibility and possible integration into one structure.

A breakdown of space requirements, based on the present park staff and artifact storage need is as follows:

1. Maintenance

a. Maintenance Office, 100 sq. ft. - To serve three permanent and ten seasonal maintenance personnel (heated area).

b. Employee Restroom, Shower, and Lockers, 150 sq. ft.

c. Lumber Storage, 300 sq. ft. - Unheated.

d. Paint and Flammable Materials Storage, 200 sq. ft. - Unheated.

e. Small Motor Equipment and Tool Storage, 200 sq. ft. - Unheated.

f. Work Shop, 1,200 sq. ft. - Paint room, woodworking, and general maintenance area, heated.

g. Garage (five bays), 1,200 sq. ft. - Two bays heated, one for fire truck storage and one equipment painting and a maintenance bay.

TOTAL	3,350 sq. ft.

2. Artifact Storage and Work Area

a. Curatorial Office, 100 sq. ft. - Heated space.

b. Work Space, 250 sq. ft. - A small preservation and curatorial laboratory with space for chemicals and work space is needed to help care for some of the 1,500 artifacts now in storage at Fort Laramie National Historic Site.

c. Storage, 1,800 sq. ft. - Temperature, dust, and humidity control is important to protect the over $1,000,000 worth of artifacts presently at the area.

d. Vault, 120 sq. ft. - Again needs humidity, dust, and temperature control to protect the most valuable artifacts onsite.

TOTAL	2,270 sq. ft.

A recap of the space requirements for the maintenance and curatorial storage building or buildings is as follows:

Maintenance

Office	100 sq. ft.
Employee Restroom, Shower and Lockers	150 sq. ft.
Lumber Storage	300 sq. ft.
Paint and Flammable Materials Storage	200 sq. ft.
Small Motor Equipment and Tool Storage	200 sq. ft.
Work Shop	1,200 sq. ft.
Vehicle Garage	1,200 sq. ft.
TOTAL	3,350 sq. ft.

Artifact Storage and Work Area

Curatorial Office	100 sq. ft.
Work Space	500 sq. ft.
Storage	1,000 sq. ft.
Vault	150 sq. ft.
Sub-total, Curatorial	1,750 sq. ft.
Sub-total, Maintenance	4,350 sq. ft.
TOTAL	6,100 sq. ft.

5. Fort Area

Relocation of park headquarters to the new administration complex will provide the space necessary to enhance interpretation opportunities and other services in the fort area.

Historic Structure 9, the Post Commissary Store, will be partially restored to its historic function. Portions of this building can also provide the living history staging area (a place to change into period clothing, lockers for storage, showers, and restroom facilities for seasonal employees) and a public cold weather warming station. Other portions of this building will serve as an onsite security post, first aid, and provide space for public restrooms, and provide needed living history storage space.

The south end of Cavalry Barracks, Historic Structure 1 (half of building) is to be restored to its original use and refurnished as well. The north half will be adaptively restored as follows:

-Downstairs a large open multi-purpose room to be used for interpretive talks, lectures, special programs, meetings, and park and local get togethers. This room should be able to hold 150 people and be done in a similar interior style as the south end. In addition, a kitchen and restrooms should be provided. Simple heating, water and sewer will be needed.

-Upstairs, no work be done other than what is necessary to complete adjacent and downstairs construction. The use for the upstairs space would be storage.

Through this adaptive restoration, Fort Laramie National Historic Site will have a needed facility that could also be used as a training area for western military history personnel from National Park Service areas throughout the west.

The fire plugs and hose house will be enhanced to visually blend into the historic setting.

The old maintenance area will be restored to native vegetation and blended into the site.

Archeological investigations of the maintenance area will be conducted prior to revegetation and will be kept low level and of short-term duration.

Handicap access to the historic fort area will be reviewed by a handicapped planner at the design stage, prior to construction, to determine if further development is required that will be compatible with both the historic integrity and meet handicap needs.

D. Pedestrian Bridge (See Figure 5)

A 75 to 100-foot bridge will span the river channel and connect a walk between the proposed visitor contact facility and the fort area. The low level night lighted walkway will be hard surfaced and a maximum 5 percent grade will be designed to accommodate wheel chairs and park electric carts for transporting the physically handicapped.

It is recommended that bridge design not try to duplicate the original military bridge. However, wood decking and wood handrails should be used to accent the natural river setting. Wood benches will be installed on the bridge to provide a pleasant meeting place for park visitors.

The bridge will be designed to float, in the event of flood conditions. Teathered by steel cables, the bridge will lift off the foundation, swinging to float in the direction of water flow. Teathering will prevent downstream damage otherwise produced under similar circumstances. Design and location will conform to applicable Federal, State, and local flood plain protection standards. Potential flood conditions generally occur due to spring runoff during low visitation. In the event of flood conditions, visitors will be directed to the high ground north of the hospital (H.S. 13) ruins. An upstream dam has nearly eliminated potential floods.

E. Picnic Area

Input received through public workshops, from the park staff, and agreed to by the study team, formed the basis for the decision that a picnic area be located away from the fort grounds. However, informal picnicking may occur along the river near the visitor center and in the parking area. Design and location of the picnic area will conform to Federal, State, and local flood plain protection standards. The current picnic facilities adjacent to the existing parking lot (see Photograph 8), and to the southwest of the fort area will be removed and the sites restored.

The picnic area will be located a short distance from the visitor orientation parking area in a grove of trees near the Laramie River.

This site is well suited for development of 20 to 30 individual picnic sites with vehicle pulloff points, oversized vehicle pulloffs, and two separate group sites. At a central location, a modern comfort station and drinking fountains will be located to serve the user. This picnic area will be connected to the visitor orientation center by a main access road and by a secondary trail linked to the Soap Suds Row area. The group picnic area can serve as an all day area for large groups who wish to use it as a staging area and will be available on a reservation basis. The group area will consist of one covered picnic structure and one noncovered group area.

National Park Service Management Policies concerning picnicking in historic areas specify that picnicking is an approved use, except in historic zones where it should be confined to modest lunching areas, if needed, and should not adversely intrude upon the historic scene.

F. Archeological Historic Resources

1. Ward and Guerrier Trading Post

Archeological excavation of the Ward and Guerrier Trading Post is the only feasible solution to preserve as much scientific data as possible from the trading post. This approach meets Federal legislation and National Park Service historic preservation policies and allows the development of visitor and administrative facilities as discussed previously in the selection of alternatives.

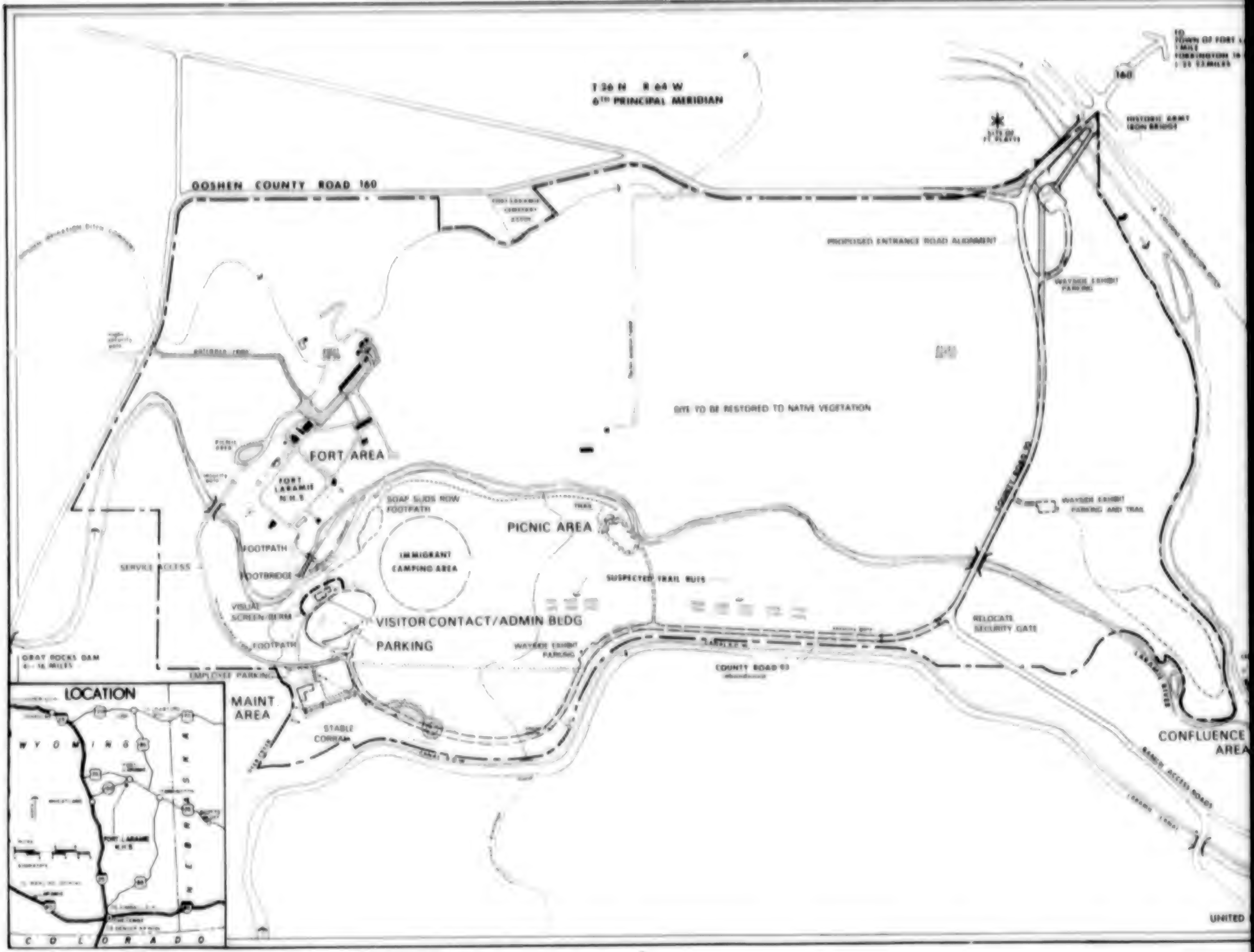
Prior to conduction of these excavations, it is advisable to subject the entire proposed development area to a proton magnetometer survey to insure that heretofore unlocated features similar to the Ward and Guerrier Trading Post are not uncovered during construction. This would ensure resource identification and avoid costly construction delays.

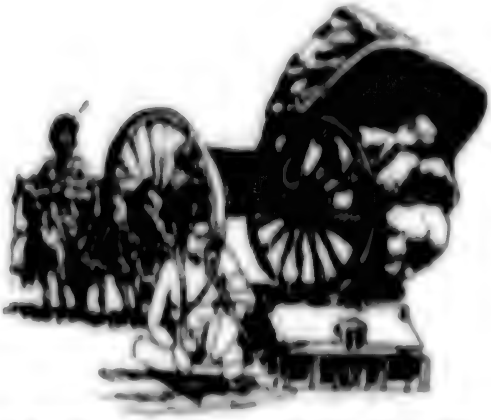
2. Fort Platte and the Mormon Trail

An interpretive sign may be placed at the historic Army Iron Bridge as supplemental information concerning the relationships between Fort Laramie, Fort Platte, and the Oregon and Mormon Trails, if requested by the Agency administering the historic Mormon Trail.

The site of Fort Platte (as indicated on Figure 1) is occupied by farmstead buildings, and surrounding land use is agricultural. "Surface remains are difficult to find due to repeated cultivation * * * the exact site of Fort Platte is known" (Fort Laramie National Historic Site Resources Management Plan, May 1973, Part III., E., 2). The park currently provides interpretation of Fort Platte in the museum and through talks.

The National Park Service has administratively determined that expansion of the Fort Laramie National Historic Site boundary to include this area is not within guidelines of resource management. Currently, management of the Fort Platte site is conducted by the Wyoming State Historic Landmarks Commission.


T 26 N R 64 W
6TH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN
TO TOWN OF FORT L
1 MILE
TORRINGTON 16
I 25 23 MILES
160
HISTORIC ARMY IRON BRIDGE
GOSHEN COUNTY ROAD 160
PROPOSED ENTRANCE ROAD ALIGNMENT
WAYSIDE EXHIBIT PARKING
SITE TO BE RESTORED TO NATIVE VEGETATION
FORT AREA
FORT LARAMIE N.H.S
SOAP SUDS ROW FOOTPATH
PICNIC AREA
IMMIGRANT CAMPING AREA
FOOTPATH
FOOTBRIDGE
SERVICE ACCESS
SUSPECTED TRAIL RUTS
VISUAL SCREEN/BERM
VISITOR CONTACT/ADMIN BLDG
PARKING
FOOTPATH
WAYSIDE EXHIBIT PARKING
WAYSIDE EXHIBIT PARKING AND TRAIL
RELOCATE SECURITY GATE
COUNTY ROAD 53
GRAY ROCKS DAM
EMPLOYEE PARKING
MAINT AREA
STABLE CORRAL
CONFLUENCE AREA
UNITED
LOCATION
W Y O M I N G
N E B R A S K A
FORT LARAMIE N.H.S
C O L O R A D O

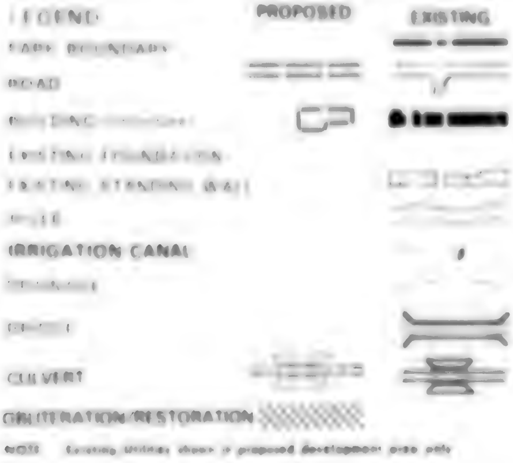


FORT LARAMIE

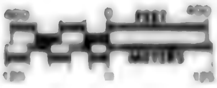
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
GOSHEN COUNTY, WYOMING

HISTORIC SITE DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN

FIGURE 3



NOTE: Existing utilities shown in proposed development area only

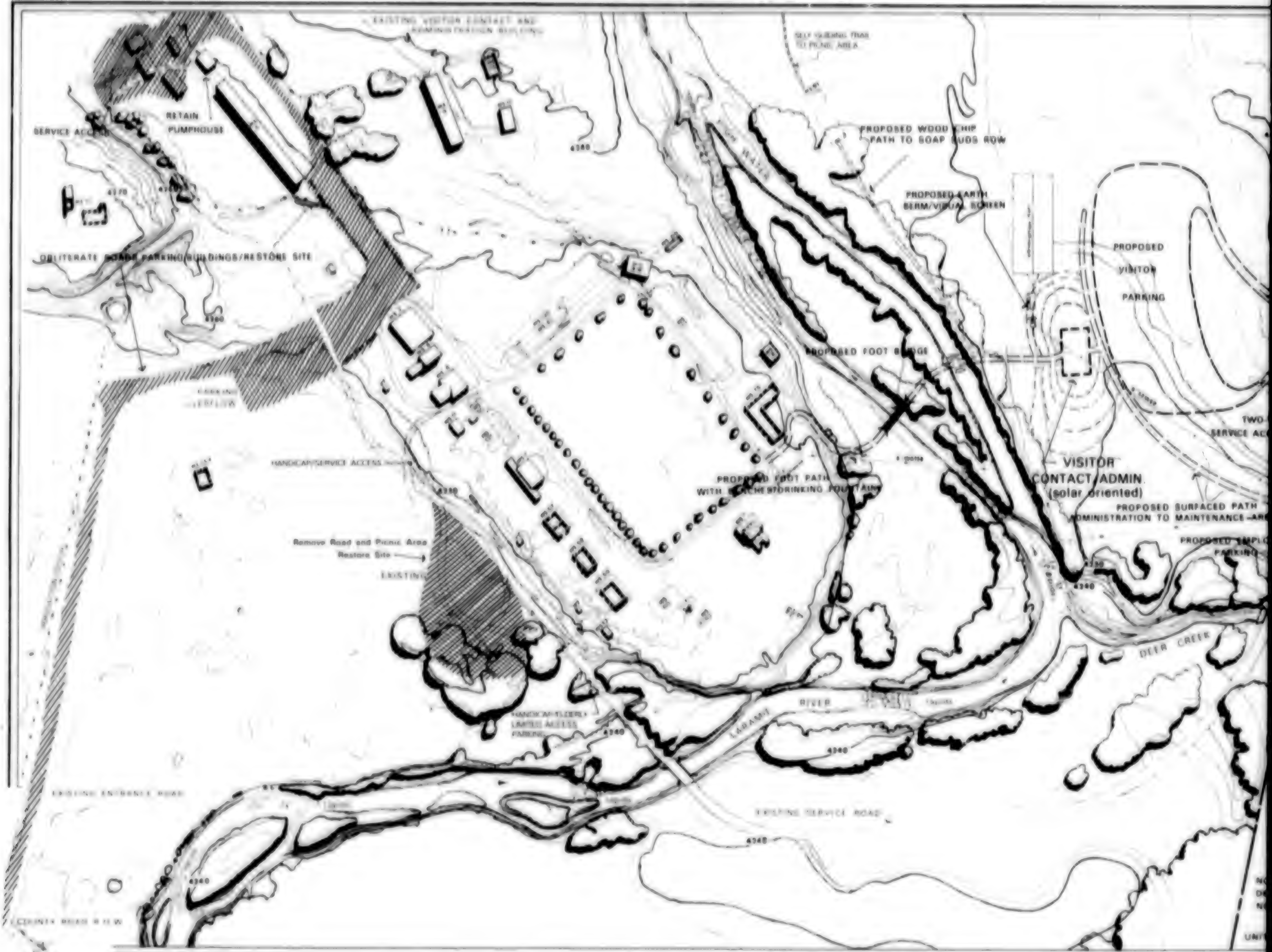


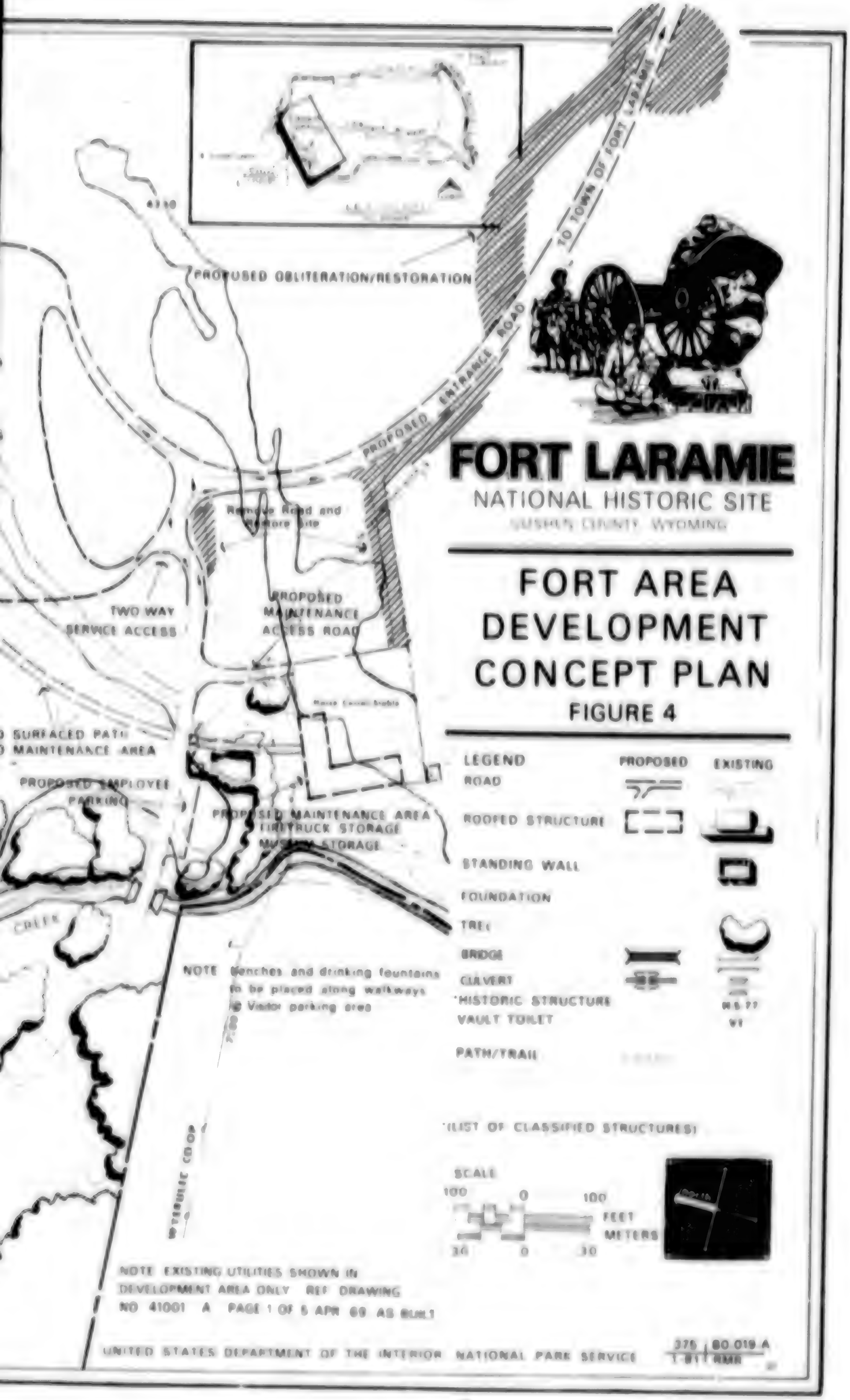
STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR/NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

375 | 80 018 A

21A

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE


EXISTING VISITOR CONTACT AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
SELF GUIDING TRAIL TO PICNIC AREA
SERVICE ACCESS
RETAIN PUMPHOUSE
4380
4370
OBLITERATE ROADS/PARKING/BUILDINGS/RESTORE SITE
4360
PARKING OVERFLOW
PROPOSED WOOD CHIP PATH TO SOAP SUDS ROW
PROPOSED EARTH BERM/VISUAL SCREEN
PROPOSED VISITOR PARKING
PROPOSED FOOT BRIDGE
HANDICAP/SERVICE ACCESS
PROPOSED FOOT PATH WITH BENCHES/DRINKING FOUNTAIN
VISITOR CONTACT/ADMIN. (solar oriented)
PROPOSED SURFACED PATH ADMINISTRATION TO MAINTENANCE
PROPOSED EMPLOYEE PARKING
TWO
SERVICE AC
Remove Road and Picnic Area
Restore Site
EXISTING
HANDICAP/ELDERLY LIMITED ACCESS PARKING
4340
LARAMIE RIVER
DEER CREEK
EXISTING ENTRANCE ROAD
EXISTING SERVICE ROAD
COUNTY ROAD R.O.W.



PROPOSED OBLITERATION/RESTORATION
TO TOWN OF FORT LARAMIE
PROPOSED ENTRANCE ROAD
Remove Road and Restore Site
TWO WAY SERVICE ACCESS
PROPOSED MAINTENANCE ACCESS ROAD
Horse Corral/Stable
SURFACED PATH
MAINTENANCE AREA
PROPOSED EMPLOYEE PARKING
PROPOSED MAINTENANCE AREA
FIRETRUCK STORAGE
MUSEUM STORAGE
CREEK
HYDRAULIC DITCH
4230
NOTE Benches and drinking fountains to be placed along walkways @ Visitor parking area
LEGEND
PROPOSED
EXISTING
ROAD
ROOFED STRUCTURE
STANDING WALL
FOUNDATION
TREE
BRIDGE
CULVERT
HISTORIC STRUCTURE
VAULT TOILET
PATH/TRAIL
HS 77
VT
(LIST OF CLASSIFIED STRUCTURES)
SCALE
100
0
100
FEET
METERS
30
0
30
NORTH
NOTE EXISTING UTILITIES SHOWN IN DEVELOPMENT AREA ONLY REF DRAWING NO 41001 A PAGE 1 OF 5 APR 69 AS BUILT
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
375 | 80,019 A
1-81 | RMR

FORT LARAMIE

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

GOSHEN COUNTY, WYOMING

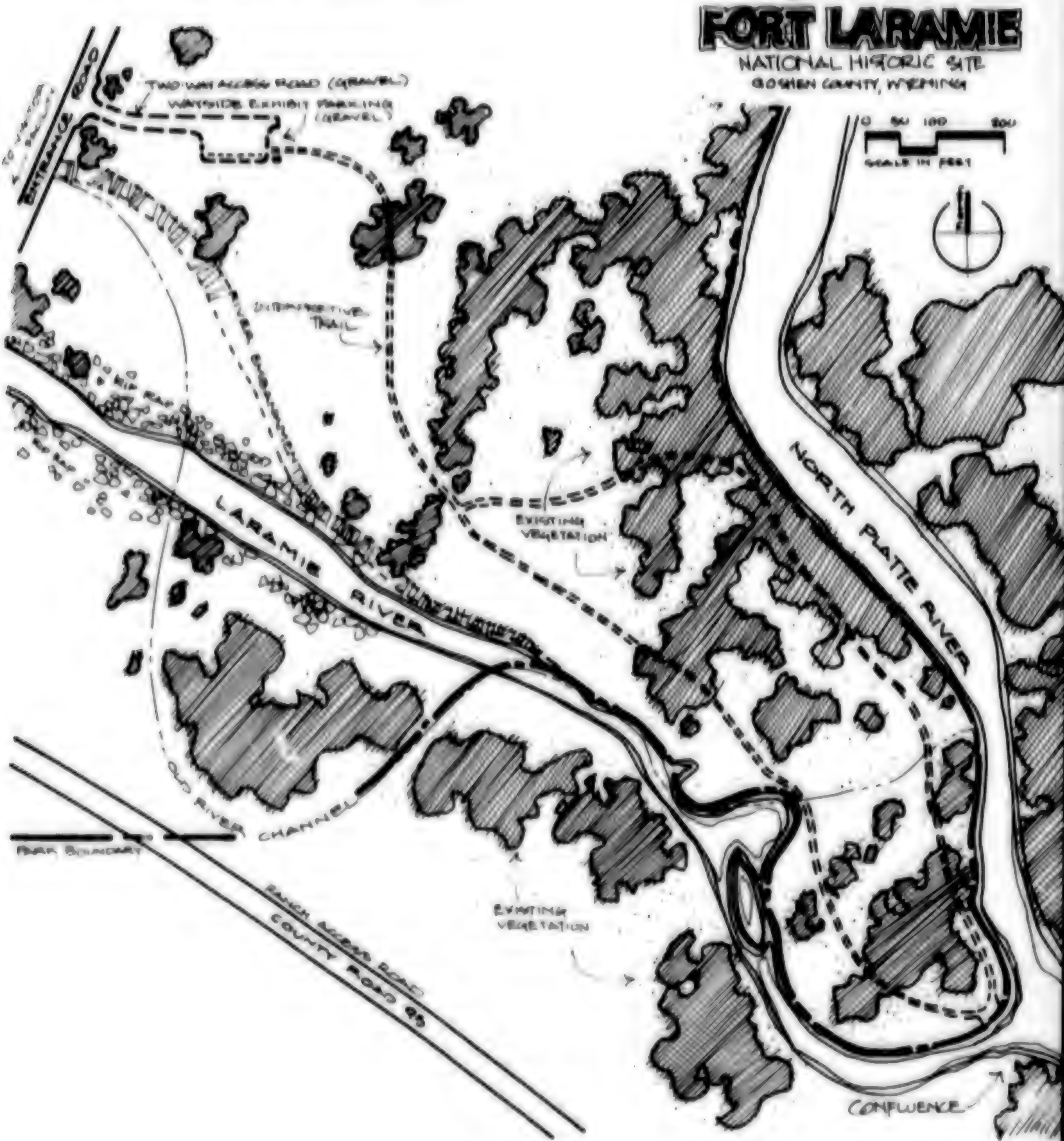
FORT AREA DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN

FIGURE 4

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

CONFLUENCE AREA
DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT
FIGURE 5

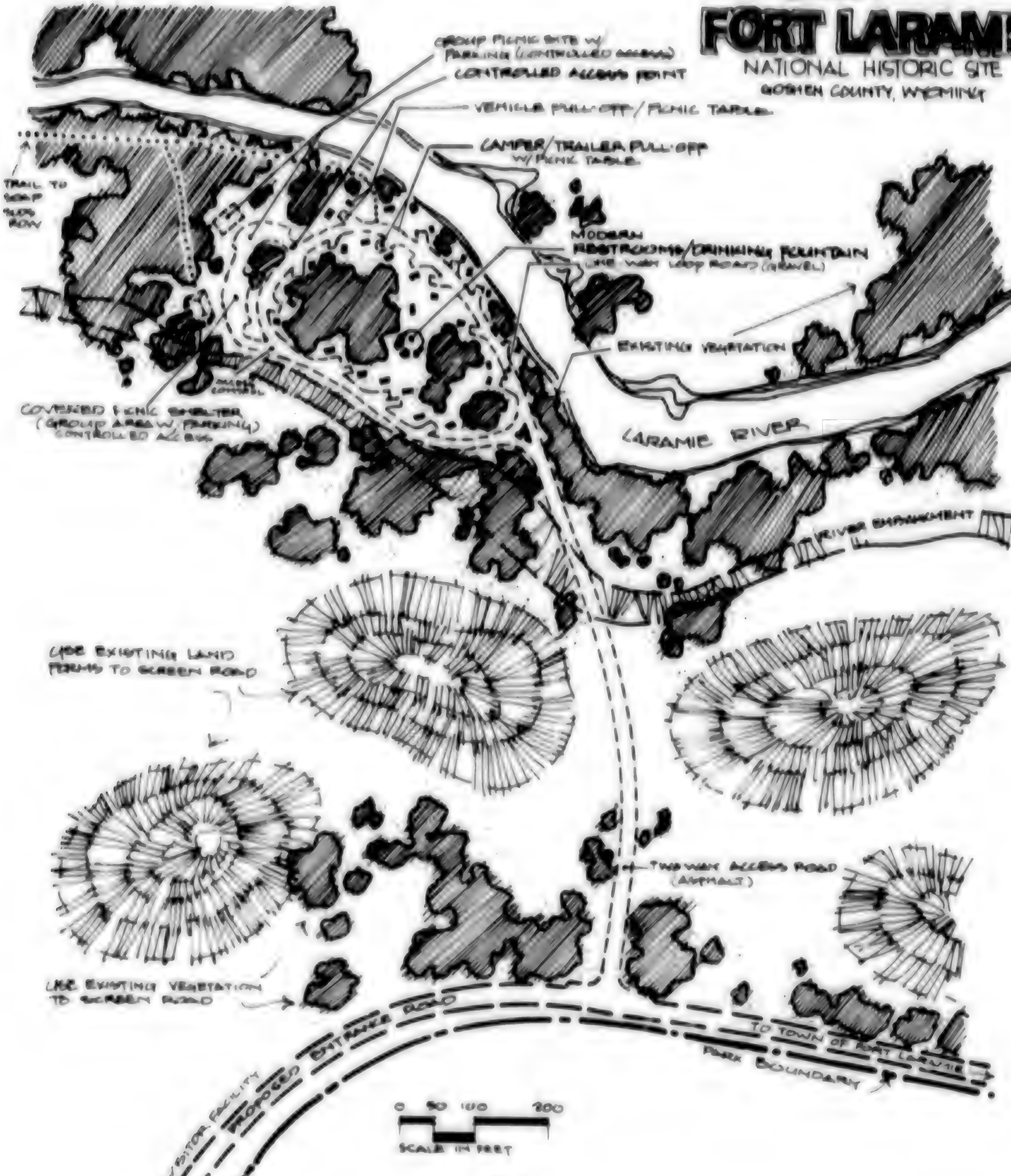
FORT LARAMIE
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
GOSHEN COUNTY, WYOMING



375 | 80,022
JULY '81 | RMRO

PICNIC AREA
DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT
FIGURE 6

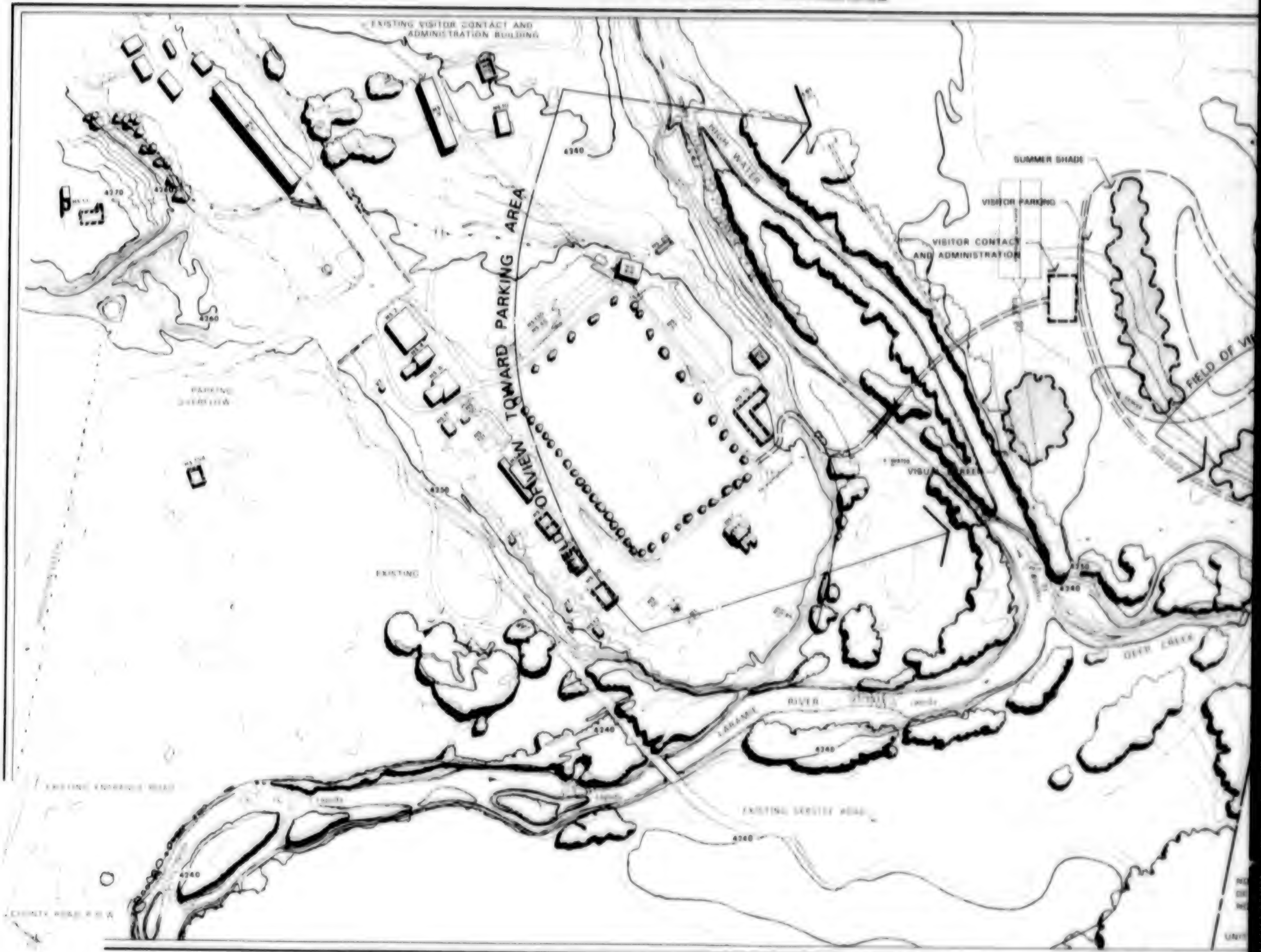
FORT LARAMIE
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
GOSHEN COUNTY, WYOMING

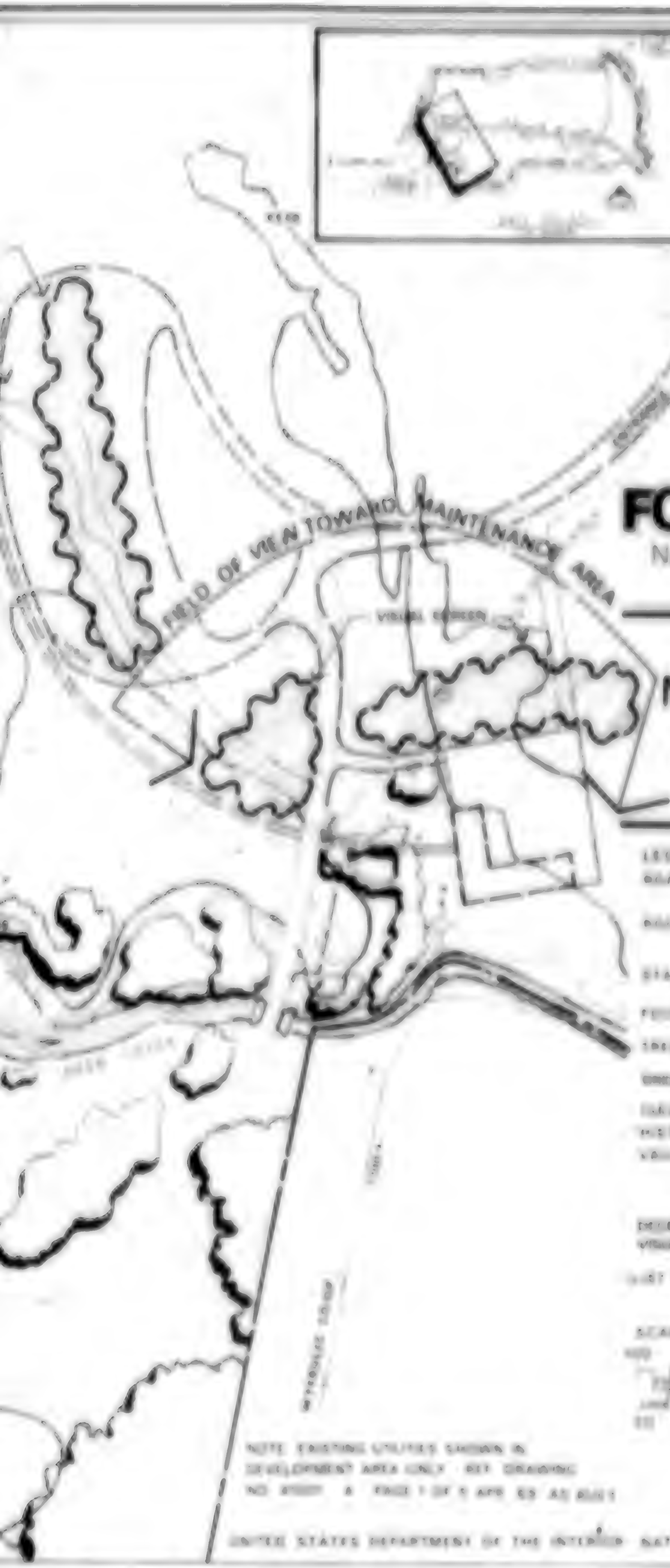

GROUP PICNIC SITE W/ PARKING (CONTROLLED ACCESS)
CONTROLLED ACCESS POINT
VEHICLE PULL-OFF / PICNIC TABLE
CAMPER/TRAILER PULL-OFF W/PICNIC TABLE
TRAIL TO
MODERN RESTROOMS/DRINKING FOUNTAIN
ONE WAY LOOP ROAD (GRAVEL)
EXISTING VEGETATION
COVERED PICNIC SHELTER (GROUP AREA W. PARKING) CONTROLLED ACCESS
LARAMIE RIVER
RIVER EMBANKMENT
USE EXISTING LAND FORMS TO SCREEN ROAD
TWO WAY ACCESS ROAD (ASPHALT)
USE EXISTING VEGETATION TO SCREEN ROAD
PROPOSED ENTRANCE ROAD
TO VISITOR FACILITY
TO TOWN OF FORT LARAMIE
PARK BOUNDARY
0 50 100 200
SCALE IN FEET

375 | 80,023
JULY '81 | RMRO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE





FORT LARAMIE

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
GOSHEN COUNTY, WYOMING

MASS PLANTING CONCEPT PLAN

FIGURE 7

LEGEND PROPOSED EXISTING
ROAD
ROOFED STRUCTURE
STANDING WALL
FOUNDATION
TREE
BRIDGE
CULVERT
HISTORIC STRUCTURE
VAULT TOILET

DECIDUOUS
VISUAL SCREEN

(LIST OF CLASSIFIED STRUCTURES)

SCALE
FEET
METERS

NOTE: EXISTING UTILITIES SHOWN IN DEVELOPMENT AREA ONLY. REF. DRAWING NO. [illegible] A PAGE 1 OF 1 [illegible]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

D. Self Guiding Trails and Wayside Exhibits

Interpretation at Fort Laramie National Historic Site will continue as a self guiding method, except for the audiovisual orientation provided at the visitor orientation structure. The following is a list of self guiding trails and exhibits:

1. The Fort Grounds

Buildings, furnishings, and living history demonstrations.

2. Hospital and NCO Ruins

Portions of structure on a knoll north of the fort grounds.

3. Iron Bridge

Over the North Platte River at the east end of the historic site. A parking area with exhibits will interpret the bridge and the site of Fort Platte, Mormon, and other trails that passed near the area.

4. Confluence Area

The confluence of the North Platte and Laramie Rivers is a natural geographical landmark in the arid portion of Wyoming. A parking and historical and nature trail will be located here.

5. Suspected Trail Ruts

Paralleling the entrance road on the south side of the park will be interpreted, if the existing depressions prove to be trail ruts after historical archeological investigations.

6. Soap Suds Row

Is an area located across the Laramie River from the fort grounds northeast of the proposed visitor orientation structure. Laundresses serving military needs lived at this location.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND MITIGATION

A. Visitor Contact Facilities

Construction activities will produce noise, along with limited dust, and visual distractions.

Mitigation: The new structure will provide visitor and administrative facilities permitting the removal of these existing functions from the fort site. An opportunity will be provided to improve the overall interpretative atmosphere at Fort Laramie National Historic Site (see

Photograph C and Photograph D). Earth berms will eliminate the visual intrusion of the building as seen from the fort grounds. Vegetation and earth berms will screen the proposed parking area and entrance road, and will help reduce the visibility of the visitor center and administration building from the fort area.

B. Headquarters and Administration Facilities

Environmental effects will be the same as A above.

Mitigation: Same as A above. A management objective will be realized by moving the administrative functions out of its present location to an area outside of the historic fort grounds.

C. Maintenance Facilities

The environmental disturbance, noise, and dust will occur during construction activities. This development commits ½-acre of land on the south side of the Laramie River for new maintenance facilities.

Mitigation: The historic fort setting will be enhanced by removal of the existing maintenance facilities and associated activities from the fort grounds. This action will permit the opportunity to gain scientific knowledge of the archeological resources under the existing maintenance structures. The site will be restored to a natural setting. The remaining building, the pumphouse, will receive exterior architectural modification to make it more visually compatible with the historic scene.

The architectural style of the new maintenance and curatorial storage facilities will harmonize with the historic scene. Tree and shrub planting will partially screen these facilities from public view.

Removal of historic artifacts from the Army Barracks (H.S. 5) to a new storage area adjacent to the maintenance building will provide a dust free, humidity, and temperature controlled environment for artifact preservation and security of resources. The space currently occupied by the artifacts will be restored for visitor interpretation and historic presentation (see Photograph F).

D. Pedestrian Bridge Location (See Photograph H)

Construction will cause a minor amount of dust, noise, and erosion. Runoff from the site will probably cause a minor amount of stream sedimentation. Small animals and birds will be temporarily disturbed by the construction activities and somewhat by the existence of the walkway and bridge.

PHOTOGRAPH H

Fort area from Laramie River near proposed pedestrian footbridge location. Illustrates natural environment scene and transition zone from visitor contact facility to the historical setting of the fort area.

Park visitors will traverse a distance of about 700 feet from the visitor center to the parade grounds and make a 10-feet grade change down one bank and back up the other side (maximum grade 4 percent). The bridge and walkway will be built in a flood plain. Design will take into consideration potential damage caused to and by the foot bridge during potential floods, and will respond to Federal, State, and county flood plain ordinances.

Mitigation: The bridge will not be visible from the parade ground, and will be located in the naturalist's transition area between the visitor orientation structure and the historic scene. The microclimate of the flood plain is condusive to human comfort. Shade trees and the proximity to the stream will provide a relief from the hot summer sun. Park visitors will be sheltered from the stinging northwest winds that blow across Fort Laramie during the winter months by the microclimate of the depressed flood plain.

The park visitor will experience a pleasant and subtle transition from the modern visitor facilities through a natural setting into the historic scene of the fort grounds (see Photograph H).

The bridge and walkway will accommodate handicapped persons in wheel chairs. The park will provide transportation for the handicapped and elderly to reach the fort site from the visitor center via electric cart, when staff personnel are available.

The Laramie River flood plain has flooded in the past, however, the bridge and walkway should be safe from future flooding due to the protection offered by the Gray Rocks Dam recently constructed upstream.

E. Picnic Area Location

A natural area including vegetation and wildlife will be disturbed. Dust and noise will be produced during the construction of the picnic area entrance road and parking facilities.

Mitigation: The impact of picnicking and associated activities will be removed from the fort grounds area.

Shade trees and flowing river water induces a cool breeze on hot summer days providing park visitors relief from the hot summer sun.

F. Archeological and Historic Resources

The integrity of the Ward and Guerrier Trading Post will be lost. A short-term disruption of the physical resources will occur during excavation.

Mitigation: Excavation will provide artifacts and historic data available for exhibit and scholarly study. Nonexcavations will result in loss of artifacts and data due to natural deterioration processes.

G. Laramie River Flood Basin

The Laramie River flood basin is under the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers. Recent construction of the Gray Rocks Dam (16 river miles) upstream of Fort Laramie National Historic Site was completed in 1980. Normal river flow elevations vary from 4,232 to 4,234 feet. Flood stage at Fort Laramie is 4,240 feet. Severe flood stage at Gray Rocks Reservoir is 4,248 feet, with predicted washout occurring at 4,252 feet. The Fort Laramie National Historic Site area was surveyed by the engineering firm of Banner Associates, Laramie, Wyoming, and reported that a 100-year flood would probably occur at the 4,240± feet elevation (see Figure 2 for Topographic Data).

Banner Associates Engineers predict that a breach of the Gray Rocks Dam would require the occurrence of the largest thunderstorm that could take place infinitely beyond a 10,000-year flood.

A complete warning system for dam breach has been developed by Missouri Basin Power Project, Bismarck, North Dakota, and the park is preparing a visitor evacuation plan in response to the "Gray Rocks Dam Evacuation Plan" by Wyoming Disaster and Civil Defense Warning System, 1980.

Improvements within the flood plain area will be accomplished in compliance with Executive Order 11988 concerning protection of wetlands. In particular, new structures and developments proposed for this area will be constructed to minimize flood damage. An environmental assessment concerning proposed construction will be prepared separately.

APPENDIX A

I. Development Cost Estimates (see Table I)

II. Estimated Additional Staffing

REQUIREMENTS PER DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE PHASES

DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE YEAR	WAGE SCALE	SEASONAL (MAN-YEAR)	POSITION	COST
5	GS-4	1.0	Security Guard	$12,519
5	GS-4	1.0	Orientation Center Public Information Contact	12,519
5	WG-3	2.0	Laborer	31,800
5	GS-7	1.0	Museum Technician	17,214
TOTAL		5.0		$74,052

APPENDIX A

I. Development Cost Estimates

PACKAGE DESCRIPTION	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR	3rd YEAR	4th YEAR	5th YEAR	TOTAL COST
Archeological and Historical Study: south side of Laramie River believed to be "Oregon Trail Ruts"; Ward and Guerier Trading Post site; .5 mile entrance road; and .4 mile of picnic area roads.	161					161
Construct 2.3 miles of two-way paved entrance road; paved parking for 100 cars and 15 buses and recreational vehicles; 1.5 mile two-way and .25 mile one-way gravel road; picnic area parking for 25 cars and 6 buses or recreational vehicles gravel; .1 mile two-way gravel road and parking for 10 cars and 2 buses at the confluence area; .12 mile asphalt access road, parking 10 cars and 2 buses at Historic Iron Bridge; obliterate and restore old road scars, wayside exhibits at Historic Iron Bridge, confluence area, and trail ruts; drinking fountains with waterlines along pathway to fort area.		190	190	1,621		2,001
Construct 3,350 sq. ft. maintenance structure with shops, storage for paint and oil, vehicle storage, and maintenance office. Construct 2,270 sq. ft. curatorial storage building with temperature, humidity, and dust control; office, work area, and vault located in maintenance area. Construct 400 sq. ft. stable for 3 horse stalls with tack and grain room, and pole corral.			85	85	732	902
Construct 3,840 sq. ft. visitor orientation structure with introduction area, information desk with sales display, auditorium and restrooms; and 2,860 sq. ft. administration space for offices, storage; walks, paths, and native landscaping plants with irrigation system; construct one 800 sq. ft. picnic shelter, restrooms with leach field for picnic area; waterline from fort area to picnic area.			213	213	1,835	2,261
Adaptive restoration (½) Cavalry Barracks (H.S. #5) approximately 7,000 sq. ft. for temporary artifact storage and future group gathering area. Restore remaining (½) of Cavalry Barracks (H.S. #5) approximately 7,000 sq. ft. to Cavalry Barrack exhibit.			63	63	550	676
Adaptive restoration (½) to commissary (H.S. #9) approximately 2,500 sq. ft.; remaining (½) or approximately 2,500 sq. ft. to adaptive use: visitor warming area, security guard and first-aid station, seasonal period clothing change with showers and lockers. Retain restrooms and storage area in basement.			19	19	164	202
Construct 12 ft. x 100 ft. timbered footbridge capable of supporting an automobile for emergency purposes; 10 ft. x 500 ft. exposed, intergal color concrete walk from visitor orientation building to fort site.			9	9	68	86
Remove four maintenance buildings (approximately 4,500 sq. ft.) and restore site, roads, parking and picnic area at fort site. Restore 220 acres of agriculture lands, includes vegetation management plan and research.			16	16	328	360
TOTAL						6,649

III. Analysis of Additional Personnel Requirements

One man-year to provide an additional guard to assure constant security in the fort and visitor center areas.

One man-year to provide additional personnel to maintain the information and interpretative desk in the visitor contact station to handle projected increase in visitation.

One man-year will be required to perform additional labor on projects including servicing the picnic area, removing snow from additional walks and road, maintenance of the proposed mass planting areas, and additional roadside maintenance.

One man-year to provide curatorial museum activities.

IV. Analysis of Additional Equipment Requirements

The development of 2.3 miles of new entrance road will require the purchase of a snowplow at an estimated cost of $3,000 and annual operation cost of $5,000.

V. Time Frames

Fiscal Year 1981 - Complete the development concept plan and associated 10-238's.

Historical archeological investigations and excavations must take place within potential development areas prior to construction.

The projected programmed planning and development time frame is as follows:

Fiscal Year 1986 - Advanced planning funds for roads, trails, and additional utilities.

Fiscal Year 1987 - Project planning funds for roads, trails, and utilities. Advanced planning funds for buildings and grounds.

Fiscal Year 1989 - Construct buildings and grounds.

Planning and development dates could be moved up once the development concept plan is approved.

VI. COST EFFECTIVENESS

The cost and economic feasibility analysis for the proposed plan is categorized in the following components:

A. Management Objectives

See Section II of this planning document.

B. Quantitative and Qualitative Projection of Operational Effectiveness

Management facilities will be consolidated in the proposal and efficiency of operations is expected to increase. The quality of visitor experience and services will improve with the elimination of existing conflicting uses on and near the fort area and with the advent of improved interpretative facilities at the visitor orientation building.

Solar energy for heating, cooling, and the potential for wind powered electrical generators for the proposed visitor orientation and administration building and maintenance facilities will reduce energy consumption and expenditure for fossil fuels.

C. Additional Costs that will Occur as a Result of the Proposal

1. Capital Investment Costs

Total development costs at current construction cost estimates are $6,649,000. (See Table 1 for an itemized cost estimate.)

2. Operational Costs

Additional personnel and maintenance equipment is expected to require additional operational cost. (See Sections II, III, and IV, estimated additional staffing, analysis of additional personnel requirements; and analysis of additional equipment requirements.)

3. Nonmonetary Costs

(See Section V, Environmental Impact and Mitigation.) Visitor service and management functions will be greatly improved by consolidation. Visitor experience will be enhanced by providing advanced information at the visitor orientation area prior to entering the fort grounds. The elimination of present conflicting uses from the fort area will improve the historic setting.

APPENDIX B

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH OTHERS

Torrington, Wyoming, Women's Club	February 1, 1977
Fort Laramie, Wyoming, Community	Febraury 7, 1977
Guernsey, Wyoming, Community	February 10, 1977
Wheatland, Wyoming, Community	February 23, 1977
Scotts Bluff, Nebraska, Community	February 28, 1977
Goshen County Commissioners	March 1, 1977
Lingle and Fort Laramie, Wyoming Soil and Water Conservation District	April 28, 1977
Mr. Merrill J. Mattes, Littleton, Colorado	August 14, 1977
Fort Laramie, Wyoming, Community	October 18, 1977
Wyoming Recreation Commission	October 18, 1977
Fort Laramie National Historic Site, Employees	October 19, 1977
Torrington, Wyoming, Community	October 19, 1977
Goshen Association of Governments	October 21, 1977
Wyoming State Highway Department	October 24, 1977
Mr. Charles Sharp, Torrington, Wyoming	October 24, 1977
Wyoming Executive Department	November 14, 1977
Wyoming State Clearinghouse (106 Compliance)	March 10, 1978

APPENDIX C

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Statement for Management, Fort Laramie National Historic Site, February 1979.

Interpretative Prospectus, Fort Laramie National Historic Site, May 1972.

Historic Resources Management Plan and Historic Studies Management Plan, Fort Laramie National Historic Site, May 1973.

Management Policies, National Park Service, 1978.

Master Plan, Fort Laramie National Historic Site, April 1965.

Environmental Assessment, Fort Laramie National Historic Site, February 1978 (see pages 38 and 39).

APPENDIX D

PLANNING TEAM MEMBERS

Mr. James M. O'Shea, Landscape Architect, Team Leader, RMR

Mr. Gary R. Miles, Landscape Architect, Assistant Team Leader, RMR

Mr. Dick Maeder, Superintendent, Fort Laramie National Historic Site

Mr. Vernon Hennessay, Superintendent, Fort Laramie National Historic Site

Mr. Gary Howe, Superintendent, Fort Laramie National Historic Site

Mr. Rodd Wheaton, Historical Architect, RMR

Mr. John Reed, Interpretation Specialist, RMR

Mr. Craig Celler, Archeologist, Midwest Archeological Center

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1981 — 781-247/1003 Region No. 8

As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, parks and recreation areas, and to ensure the wise use of all these resources. The department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

END

3-10-83